HALLOWEEN ComicFest

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS

1 of 6

DCEASED

THE END OF EVERYTHING STARTS HERE!

TAYLOR • HAIRSINE • HARREN • GAUDIANO • BEREDO

THE
ROAD TO
MADNESS BEGINS...

A stunning new vision of the origin of
Harley Quinn by writer/artist

STJEPAN
ŠEJIĆ

HARLEEN

SEPTEMBER

DC BLACK LABEL

Three Oversize 64-page
Prestige Format Issues

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My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.

There was nothing hiding in the dark.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

KABOOM

I wish I could have told my child the same thing.

But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.

I knew they were real.

There was one thing I didn't know...

KABOOM

It started with something like thunder. I don't know how else to describe it, because it was a sound no one had ever heard before.

It was the sound of a Superman breaking the jaw of a God.

KRAM

Darkseid's invasion lasted a week.

The Justice League battled, tirelessly, for everyone. They kept most of the fighting to unpopulated areas.

They saved millions. Swarms of Apokoliptian parademons were repelled. Deities were driven back. And the ultimate evil was stopped in his tracks.

YOU WILL LEAVE EARTH, DARKSEID. NOW.

It was, perhaps, the League's finest hour.

It was their last together.

GOING VIRAL

writer: TOM TAYLOR artists: TREVOR HAIRSINE & STEFANO GAUDIANO (1-6, 15-26) and JAMES HARREN (7-14)
colorist: RAIN BEREDO letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE cover artists: GREG CAPULLO and FCO PLASCENCIA
variant cover artists: FRANCESCO MATTINA and YASMINE PUTRI editor: BEN ABERNATHY
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

YOU WILL NOT RETURN TO OUR WORLD.

SAY IT. THE LASSO OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU.

YEAH...IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER FOR HIM TO SPEAK IF SUPERMAN HADN'T JUST BROKEN HIS MOUTH.

I WILL NOT RETURN.

I HAVE NO NEED.

FOR THE *TRUTH* IS...

BOOM

...I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR.

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT THAT WAS GOING REALLY WELL, RIGHT UP TO THAT LAST OMINOUS SENTENCE.

ANYONE KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

dEET dEET

WHAT IS IT?

CYBORG IS MISSING.

LAST I SAW, HE WAS CHASING A SWARM OF PARADEMONS OUT OF METROPOLIS. HE COULD STILL BE--

HE'S NOT IN METROPOLIS. HE'S NOT ON EARTH.

WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I HAVE A LOCATION MONITOR RUNNING IN ONE OF HIS SUBROUTINES.

YOU WHAT?

HE'S A WALKING WEAPON WITH APOKOLIPTIAN TECHNOLOGY RUNNING THROUGH HIS BODY AND HIS BRAIN, WHICH WE'VE BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF UNDERSTANDING.

IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ALLOW THAT KIND OF UNKNOWN POWER TO MOVE FREELY.

DID VIC KNOW YOU WERE TRACKING HIM?

SO, YOU SECRETLY HACKED OUR FRIEND.

WAIT. ARE YOU TRACKING ANY OF *US*?

DO YOU HAVE A TRACKER ON *SUPERMAN*?

...

NO.

ANYONE ELSE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT SLIGHT PAUSE THERE?

LEAVING ASIDE THE MORALITY OF THIS FOR A MOMENT, HOW DO YOU KNOW VIC ISN'T ON EARTH?

MY TRACKING SYSTEM HAS A TWO-LIGHT-YEAR REACH. CYBORG ISN'T IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

THEN... WHERE IS HE?

APOKOLIPS.

Darkseid didn't invade our world to conquer. The Earth was nothing to him. He came for something else.

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...

...DO YOU KNOW OF IT, METAL MAN?

NO.

IT IS THE END OF ALL FREE WILL. FOR THE ONE WHO CONTROLS IT, IT IS THE DOMINATION OF ALL SENTIENT RACES.

YEAH? WELL, I TRY NOT TO KINK-SHAME ANYONE.

ALMIGHTY DARKSEID--

"ALMIGHTY" DARKSEID? WHY IS IT GODS ALWAYS NEED PEOPLE TO SUCK UP TO THEM?

IT'S A LITTLE SAD THAT AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING NEEDS CONSTANT REASSURANCE.

ALMIGHTY DARKSEID POSSESSES HALF OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION. HE BELIEVED THE OTHER HALF WOULD MANIFEST ON YOUR WORLD.

HE WAS, OF COURSE, CORRECT.

HE FOUND IT.

WHERE?

IN YOU.

PING PING

WERE YOU...?

WERE YOU JUST WAITING IN THE CORRIDOR TO MAKE A GOOD ENTRANCE?

DESAAD.

REMOVE HIS TONGUE.

HRARGHLLK!!

SHLK

THE MOTHERBOX WILL ADD YOUR HALF OF THE EQUATION TO HIS SYSTEM, DARKSEID.

BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM.

=HLRK=

MERGING THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WITH THE DIGITAL AND THE PHYSICAL WITHOUT DESTROYING THE HOST IS... UNSOUND.

IF HE IS KILLED BY THE PROCESS, THE EQUATION WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

THEN WE NEED TO CONTROL VICTOR STONE'S END.

I WILL SUMMON DEATH.

PING

PING

Darkseid called...

...and death came.

BLACK RACER. I HAVE NEED OF YOU.

Later, after his system had grown him a new tongue, Cyborg explained that this was their mistake.

They took a piece of death.

DESAAD

=HMMMF=

PING PING

LONELINESS + ALIE[illegible]ON + FEAR + DESPAIR + GU[illegible]

+ SHAME + FAILURE + DEATH +

And changed the equation.

This was the corruption.

KRAAKKH

MY HEAD. IT'S IN--

DARKSEID!

IT IS TIME FOR GOD TO DIE

PING PING

KRAAKK

The torturer, Desaad, was immune to disease.

BOOM

PING PING

But realizing what he'd unleashed, he tried to send the equation away. He sent Cyborg away.

But it was too late.

Their infected ruler was a slave to a new Anti-Life Equation.

Darkseid attacked. He leaped into the fires of Apokolips...

...into the world's core.

...And unleashed.

NO.

DARKSEID IS.

Darkseid was.

EARTH.
METROPOLIS.

DAILY PLANET

As soon as Cyborg returned to Earth, his system was automatically online.

And the Anti-Life Equation leaped from its patient zero to the internet.

WHOA!

NUH!

Cyborg tried to firewall himself, cutting himself off from the world, but the damage was done.

The Anti Life Equation began to spread as a techno organic virus.

It attacked through social media, as a disease that bridged the digital divide to the biological, and infected the minds of all who saw it.

The infected mindlessly shared, messaged and tweeted the equation.

As it took hold, desperate, frightened people tried to tear the equation from their heads.

AGHHHH!

And then they were enslaved.

ARGGHHH!

THE HOME OF SCOTT FREE AND BIG BARDA.

I APPRECIATE YOU WANTING TO HELP YOUR FRIEND, BUT IF CYBORG IS BEING HELD ON APOKOLIPS, I'M HIS BEST CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

YOU'LL GO?

WE WILL.

THANK YOU, BARDA. THANK YOU, SCOTT--

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

SCREAMING...

THE WORLD IS SCREAMING.

RARRRR

JON.

LOIS.

THE APARTMENT OF LOIS, JON AND CLARK KENT. METROPOLIS.

JON? I THINK I HEARD MY PHONE BUZZ. HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

DAMIAN? WHERE IS IT?

HOW WOULD I KNOW?

YOU'RE, LIKE, A SUPER-DETECTIVE. BATMAN'S SON SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A PHONE.

YOU HAVE X-RAY VISION.

THAT'S...

...ACTUALLY A GOOD POINT.

THERE.

IT'S RIGHT...

AGHH!

DAD?

CLARK? WHAT THE--?

CLOSE YOUR EYES!

DON'T LOOK AT THE SCREEN!

GAH!

"NO SCREENS!"

VIRUS QUARANTINED. FIREWALLS IN PLACE. ALL SYSTEMS RUNNING ON LOCAL INTRANET.

CONNECT TO THE BACKUP ANALOG CAMERA SYSTEM.

SHOW ME GOTHAM.

ARGGGGGGGH!!

RUN PROJECTIONS.

BASED ON AVERAGE PHONE, TABLET AND PC USE, TAKING TIME ZONES INTO ACCOUNT...

...COUPLING THE DIGITAL WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN AGGRESSIVE BIOLOGICAL BLOOD-TO-BLOOD TRANSFERENCE.

AAGGGHH!

HOW MANY INFECTED?

AN ESTIMATED 600 MILLION WORLDWIDE.

AT THE CURRENT EXPONENTIAL RATE OF INTERNET DISSEMINATION, THE VIRUS WILL SPREAD TO ALMOST EVERY INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICE WITHIN DAYS. BILLIONS WILL BE INFECTED.

HAS CONNECTION BEEN DISABLED IN THE HOUSE?

NO.

DAMN IT!

"ACTIVATE THE MANOR ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE.

"DO IT NOW!!"

WHAT

HOW DO WE HELP?

I NEED TO ASSEMBLE THE LEAGUE.

CLARK. LOOK OUT THERE. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE LEAGUE?

HE'S NOT ANSWERING.

HE...THE RADIO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ALWAYS REACHABLE.

HE'LL BE OKAY. WE'LL HEAR FROM HIM SOON. IF ANYONE CAN INTIMIDATE A SUPERVIRUS, IT'S BATMAN.

DAD SAID, FROM WHAT HE HEARD ON THE STREETS, THIS STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND, WELL...

BATMAN ISN'T EXACTLY SOCIAL.

EXACTLY.

BUT? LOOK OUT THERE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD.

DAMIAN. BRUCE WILL HAVE CONTINGENCIES IN PLACE, AND THE END OF THE WORLD COULDN'T STOP HIM REACHING YOU.

IT'S OKAY, SON...

"...I'VE LEARNED NEVER TO UNDERESTIMATE YOUR FATHER."

DICK! TIM!

ALFRED!

MASTER BRUCE!

ALFRED?

THEY'RE IN HERE, SIR.

My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.

There was nothing hiding in the dark.

TSSSS.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

DICK.

I wish I could tell my child the same thing.

SIR!

DICK. LISTEN TO ME.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

NO!

But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.

I knew they were real.

MY GOD.

ALFRED. RUN.

There was one thing I didn't know...

RUN!!

...there's a monster inside all of us.

READ THE REST OF THE STORY IN THE DCEASED GRAPHIC NOVEL!

DOOMSDAY CLOCK

"An engrossing read and a worthy follow-up to WATCHMEN."
IGN

DOOMSDAY CLOCK PART ONE
A GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION OF THE HIT SERIES
COLLECTS ISSUES #1-6

GEOFF JOHNS • GARY FRANK
BRAD ANDERSON

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DOOMSDAY CLOCK

A DC NATION INTERVIEW WITH

GEOFF JOHNS and GARY FRANK

The first-ever crossover between the DC Universe and characters from Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' classic WATCHMEN has been an epic event to watch unfold. Geoff Johns reunited with his longtime artistic partner Gary Frank for DOOMSDAY CLOCK, a 12-issue limited series. This story brings Superman into the orbit of Dr. Manhattan, WATCHMEN's godlike being who may be responsible for changing the life and history of every DC hero and villain.

"The DC Universe confronted the legacy of WATCHMEN in REBIRTH the way WATCHMEN confronted the legacy of superhero comics three decades ago," explains writer Geoff Johns. "Thematically, and metaphorically, there was no better choice than to use Dr. Manhattan. If you're going to have a conflict between optimism and pessimism, a battle between the very forces of hope and despair, you need to have someone who personifies the cynicism that has leaked into our hearts, and who also has the ability to affect the entire DCU. It's all paying off with DOOMSDAY CLOCK."

"DOOMSDAY CLOCK is a story for fans who love the DC Universe and WATCHMEN and want to see what a master of this genre creates when he puts them together," says Frank. "As for my artistic approach to the series, each panel is extremely detailed, and I am constantly thinking through the position of every single element."

"Just the idea of Superman talking to Dr. Manhattan gets me excited," Johns says. "What does that look like? Their ideologies are so vastly different, and the circumstances we put them in are very interesting. And there's a hundred layers to this book. Gary Frank is putting everything he's got into it, and we're very excited for people to see it. Superman and Dr. Manhattan are the tip of the iceberg. We know we have all these rules, but we've got to break a few rules to tell the best story. And I think it's going to do more than people think, and be different than people think. I hope it surprises people in a really good way."

Collects the first six issues of the best-selling, critically acclaimed series in stunning hardcover.

DON'T MISS
DOOMSDAY CLOCK PART 1
ON SALE IN **OCTOBER!**

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP